under Government's consideration a few years back; and

(b) if so, by when this road will be declared as National Highway?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) During the Seventh Five Year Plan, the Government was considering to declare certain State roads including the road in question as National Highways. But this could not be done. The inclusion of this road in National Highway network would now depend on the availability of funds in Eighth Plan which is yet to be finalised.

Connecting Ports with National Highways

2340. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to connect all important ports with National Highways system; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to connect Vadinar Port (Kandla Terminal-II) with the National Highway system in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) All the existing Major Ports in the country are already on the National Highway network.

(b) No, Sir. Vadinar Port is not a Major Port as yet.

Declaration of National Highways on the Report of National Transport Policy Committee

2341. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India informed some of the States that new National Highways will be declared as per report of National Transport Policy Committee;

(b) if so, whether recently declared National Highways fit in with the NTPC Report; and

(c) what is the reason for not converting the two roads in Gujarat as recommended by NTPC?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) The new National Highways are declared in the country, keeping in view the following guidelines besides the availability of resources, *inter-se* priorities, recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC) and the various proposals furnished by the State Governments including proximity of other National Highways in the area, *viz.*

(i) roads which run through the length and breadth of the country;

(ii) roads connecting adajacent countries;

(iii) roads connecting State capitals;

(iv) roads connecting major Ports and important industrial or tourists centres;,

(v) roads meeting very important strategic requirements ;

(vi) roads carrying high density of traffic over an adequate length; and

(vii) roads which will enable sizeable reduction in travel dis-